

Tampa Field Office Newsletter
JULY, 2006

SPECIAL HURRICANE SEASON EDITION!



HUD: WORKING WITH YOU TO PROTECT YOUR CONSTITUENTS

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A copy of this newsletter may be found at our HUD in FLORIDA internet site:
<http://www.hud.gov/florida> (Local Newsroom)

MESSAGE FROM THE TAMPA FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR

Although the 2006 Hurricane Season officially began on June 1st, we are publishing this Special Edition for our partners. It will represent either your introduction into Hurricane Preparedness or a refresher of procedures you may already have in place. In addition to our focus on disaster preparedness, we are also reporting on several exciting and successful events which have marked the first half of 2006, including:

- the adoption of a Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Pinellas County;
- several successful homeownership events throughout our service area;
- completion of a two-day Grant Writing workshop in Manatee County; and
- plans to present a major FHA mortgage insurance event in August.

As the second half of 2006 unfolds, we look forward to continuing our service to you, our valued customers. We will continue to provide whatever assistance we can as you work toward achieving the following goals: increasing the rate of minority homeownership; housing the homeless; assisting first time homebuyers; expanding the availability of affordable housing; decreasing housing discrimination; and making our communities more vibrant. Although ambitious, you all have a fine record of past achievements in these areas from which to draw for further progress. Thank you for your commitment!

Karen Jackson Sims, AICP
Director, Tampa Office

HUD HOSTS "BE AWARE-BE PREPARED" HURRICANE WORKSHOPS

Hurricane Preparedness Training Day in Tampa Draws Diverse Audience

Expecting a busy hurricane season this year, HUD's Tampa Office partnered with Hillsborough County emergency management to present a unique day of education. Guided by a quote from the National Hurricane Center's Max Mayfield, "Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy", the day offered a variety of information for participants from throughout Florida. It was so unique, that it received a commendation from the office of Florida Congressman Michael Bilirakis.

On Friday, May 19, 2006, 176 participants gathered at NetPark Office Complex in Tampa. In addition to the targeted audience of multifamily, public housing and private property managers, attendees included representatives of both Florida Senators and several members of the House of Representatives.

The program, led by HUD's own Karen Jackson Sims, included an opening session by Larry Gispert, Director, Hillsborough County Emergency Management Department. Mr. Gispert's presentation outlined the impact of the 2004-05 hurricanes as well as illustrations of how a similar catastrophe would affect the Tampa Bay Area. Morning panels included "If I Only Knew THEN What I Know Now!", during which graphic experiences were shared by the panel in a "lessons learned" format.



Over 170 Attendees Listen Intently to Larry Gispert, Hillsborough's EOC Director

Panelists included Bob Harlow (SPM, Inc., a private multifamily management firm); Al Kirkland, Executive Director, Lake Wales Housing Authority; and Nicholas Dickerson, Assistant Disaster Coordinator, Tampa Housing Authority. The morning concluded with "Disaster Housing: Cornerstone of Recovery", by Roy Dunn, Disaster Housing Chief, Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Afternoon sessions included (1) a panel of resource experts from HUD's multifamily and public housing divisions and Ruby Smith of the American Red Cross, and (2) a presentation by Holley Wade, Hillsborough County Emergency Management Department. The workshop, "Often Overlooked Items in Emergency Planning", culminated in an exercise where participants developed hurricane response and recovery plans. By day's end, each attendee had been provided with a thorough knowledge of disaster impacts, potential effects of local storms, resources for recovery, an outline for plan development and a variety of publications from HUD and FEMA. Although now better informed and hopefully prepared, everyone agreed they would prefer to avoid weather which would result in implementing their plan. They were advised to "THINK SUNSHINE!"

THE INTERNET: A GOLDMINE OF DISASTER PREPARATION DATA

HUD Tampa invites its customers to visit the following internet sites as part of disaster preparation:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-

<http://www.hud.gov/local/shared/news/r4/disasterassist.cfm?state=fl>

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes-

<http://www.flash.org>

State of Florida Division of Emergency Management-

<http://floridadisaster.org/>

U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency-

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm>

American Red Cross-

http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_319_,00.html

U.S. Small Business Administration-

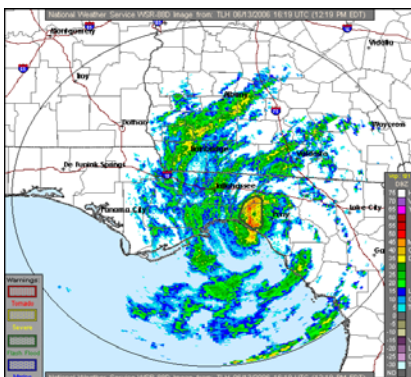
<http://www.sba.gov/npm2006/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Storm Watch-

<http://www.noaa.gov/stormwatch/>

Partnership for Advancing Housing Technology-

<http://www.pathnet.org/>



TROPICAL STORM ALBERTO TESTS AGENCIES' PLANS

As predicted by the National Weather Service, 2006 is already proving to be an active Tropical Storm season! This was evidenced on June 10th when Tropical Depression One formed off the Yucatan Peninsula. It took only three days for this system to develop into a 70 mph Tropical Storm which made landfall at Keaton Beach, Florida, before proceeding to Georgia. During its approach, Alberto dumped significant amounts of rainfall over Western Florida.

Residents in our jurisdiction were fortunate to avoid a direct hit from yet another major storm. Alberto did, however, provide local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to implement their respective disaster preparedness plans.

<http://www.hud.gov/>

<http://www.espanol.hud.gov/>

Although these plans are tested on a regular basis in the absence of any weather events, Alberto provided a more realistic simulation of emergency management plan activation for HUD and its partners. Let's all think of Alberto as a "dress rehearsal" for the next storm event for our area (it's not IF, but WHEN). In the meantime, as was emphasized during our May 19th workshops,

"LET'S THINK SUNSHINE!"

***PINELLAS COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS UNITE TO ADOPT
TEN YEAR PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS***

**Opening Doors of Opportunity:
A Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Pinellas County, Florida**

During the summer of 2004, various community and elected representatives in Pinellas County, Florida met to discuss the possibility of forming a unified approach to ending chronic homelessness. HUD participated in these discussions, resulting in the formation of The Pinellas County Homeless Policy Group.

This group was charged with the development of a Ten Year Plan which would apply throughout Pinellas County and the municipalities therein. Membership included representation from Pinellas County, and the cities of St. Petersburg, Tarpon Springs, Clearwater, Largo and Pinellas Park. An additional 15 representatives from law enforcement, social service organizations, housing agencies, Chambers of Commerce and the Public Defender's Office comprised the working group. The work of this group culminated on January 13, 2006 when it adopted a final Ten Year Plan. The Homeless Policy Group then transitioned into an action group renamed "The Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Network" (comprised of the original members) to ensure implementation and oversight.



St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker
Commends the Policy Group

On Wednesday, April 5, 2006 more than 100 guests attended a press conference held at St. Anthony's Hospital, St. Petersburg, Florida. Mayor Rick Baker and other local elected officials and business partners introduced Pinellas County's Ten Year Plan, with Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, as the keynote speaker.

The county's plan, dubbed "Opening Doors of Opportunity: A 10- year Plan to End Homelessness in Pinellas County," is one of 212 nationwide that crafts a unified plan to end homelessness. The plan is unique, officials say, because Pinellas County, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Pinellas Park, Tarpon Springs, Largo and others have adopted it. The event was a great success, with each speaker lending a different perspective on the issue of homelessness, inter-governmental cooperation, resource allocation, surveys of need and work remaining on the goal of ending homelessness in accordance with President Bush's 2003 mandate.



JUNE HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH A GREAT SUCCESS!

Each year, HUD celebrates the American Dream of Homeownership during the month of June. HUD's Tampa Office partners with many local organizations to share a host of programs which provide education, counseling, and financial assistance to customers interested in becoming homeowners. We thank our 2006 community partners who were responsible for this year's Bay Area events:

- **June 3, 2006 - Tampa Housing Authority's 5th Annual Home Buyers Educational Fair 2006, Tampa, FL:** This annual event encourages low income families to become homeowners. HUD staff provided attendees with homeownership material and individualized consultations. Many agencies were present (housing counseling agencies, lenders, municipal housing departments) to provide information and referral to the over 100 participants. Also, classes on credit repair, pre-purchase counseling and homeownership responsibilities were taught.
- **June 3, 2006 - First Time Homebuyer Fair, Ruskin, FL:** HUD's Single Family Program Support staff provided information, referral and technical assistance at the Florida Home Partnership's First Time Homebuyer Fair held in Ruskin.
- **June 10, 2006 - Pinellas County Homeownership EXPO, Clearwater, FL** - Tampa Field office staff participated with the Community Foundation of Pinellas County and the local homebuyer partnership group to present this 14th Annual Homebuyers Educational Program, designed to market homeownership opportunities.
- **June 17, 2006 -- Fifth Annual Homebuyer Expo, Palmetto, FL:** Tampa Field office staff participated with the Manatee County Housing Office, the Affordable Housing Coalition and the local homebuyer partnerships in this 5th Annual Homebuyers Educational Program, designed to market homeownership opportunities to the Latino community.

If you are interested in homeownership, please visit the following internet sites for information:

www.homeownershipalliance.org

(to download a copy of "Affordable Homes: Best Practices for America")

www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/programs/home/index.cfm

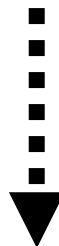
(for information about HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program)

www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/affordablehousing/programs/home/addi/index.cfm

(for information about HUD's American Dream Downpayment Initiative)



**Also, please plan to attend
"FHA: Your Door to Homeownership",
a major HOMEBUYER EXPO on Saturday, August 5, 2006 !**





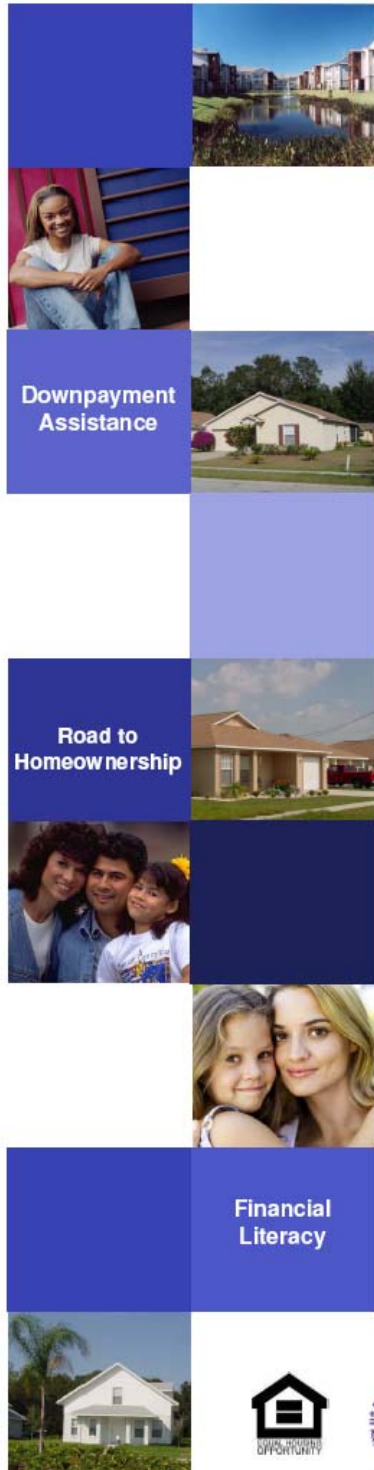
Homebuyer Expo

Saturday, August 5, 2006
10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Free Exhibits
"Prize Drawings All Day"

Free Classes
Road to Homeownership
Financial Literacy
Down Payment Assistance

Location:
University Area
Community Center Complex
14013 North 22nd St.
Tampa, FL 33613



Hosted by



HUD PROVIDES GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS AT LOCAL LEVEL

In response to requests from our faith-based partners, the Tampa Field Office's Faith-Based Liaison provided a two-day long Grant Writing Training at the Manatee County Civic Center in Palmetto. The presentation, attended by over 132 faith leaders, was completed on May 22-23, 2006. Manatee County Government and Congresswoman Katherine Harris (R-FL-13) hosted the training. Participants were interested in federal grant writing techniques, particularly those new to HUD's faith initiative. Consistent with HUD's efforts to "spread the word" in as many parts of our service area as possible, the next Grant Writing Training will be held:

August 21-22, 2006

The Stuart Center (4-H Cooperative Extension)
1702 Hwy 17 South, Bartow, FL 33830
Contact: JudelcaMelo-Varela@polk-county.net



STATE OF FLORIDA OPENS COMPETITION FOR DISASTER GRANTS

State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability:

Applications Due on Friday, September 15, 2006



The Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management is pleased to announce the availability of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds as a result of the recent Presidential Disaster Declarations (FEMA-1609-DR-FL). The HMGP is authorized by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act and is designed to assist communities in implementing mitigation measures designed to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. DEM is soliciting applications and encourage all eligible applicants to identify and submit applications that address eligible mitigation activities that are designed to reduce your community's overall risk to hazards. **The amount of funding available to the state is based on 7.5% of the total federal disaster assistance for these events.** The application period will close September 15, 2006. Therefore, **all applications must be postmarked by September 15, 2006.** The Department encourages and welcomes the submittal of complete applications at anytime during this cycle.

Application Forms:

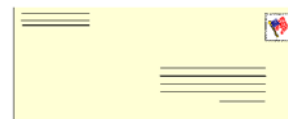
http://www.floridadisaster.org/brm/hmgrp_proc_forms.htm

Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding Program:

http://www.floridadisaster.org/documents/NOFA_HURRICANE_WILMA_1609.pdf

ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LISTS?

The HUD Tampa Field Office makes available the following publications to help keep you aware of new housing information:



Tampa Field Office Newsletter

If you need general information about programs, funding, public announcements and local activities, send your request via email to william_j_kalbas@hud.gov or call 813.228.2026 x-2112 to provide your email or postal address.

Atlanta Homeownership Center Internet News

Those interested in single family housing news may visit the following Internet site <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/talk/atlfallnews.pdf> to register for receipt of this newsletter.